

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3-11, 15, 17, 19-32, 34, and 35 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The allowable subject matter for claims 3 and 32 was indicated in the Office action of 11/27/2007.

As for claim 1, the prior art fails to teach or disclose a light source with a light guide element having an incidence surface, wherein the light guide has a polarization reflection and conversion layer, wherein the selection layer reflects light only towards the outgoing surface and a portion of the conversion layer is substantially parallel to the selection layer, and the conversion layer is a phase plate formed of a transparent material having birefringence, and the polarization selection layer includes a plurality of inclining dielectric films provided at a predetermined angle with respect to the outgoing surface.

As for claim 17, the prior art fails to teach or disclose a light source with a light guide element having an incidence surface, wherein the light guide has a polarization reflection and conversion layer, wherein the conversion layer is a phase plate, and directions of a slow and fast axis of the phase plate in a plane parallel to the outgoing surface do not match the polarization direction, and at least part of the conversion layer is substantially parallel to the selection layer, and the phase plate has a monoaxial refractive index anisotropy.

As for claim 23, the prior art fails to teach or disclose a light source with a light guide element having an incidence surface, wherein the light guide has a polarization reflection and conversion layer, wherein the conversion layer is a phase plate, and directions of a slow and fast axis of the phase plate in a plane parallel to the outgoing surface do not match the polarization direction, and at least part of the conversion layer is substantially parallel to the selection layer, and the phase plate has biaxial refractive index anisotropy.

As for claim 31, the prior art fails to teach or disclose a light guide with a polarization reflection and conversion layer, wherein the selection layer reflects light only towards the outgoing surface and a portion of the conversion layer is substantially parallel to the selection layer, and the conversion layer is a phase plate formed of a transparent material having birefringence, and the polarization selection layer includes a plurality of inclining dielectric films provided at a predetermined angle with respect to the outgoing surface.

As for claim 34, the prior art fails to teach or disclose a light guide with a polarization reflection and conversion layer, wherein the conversion layer is a phase plate, and directions of a slow and fast axis of the phase plate in a plane parallel to the outgoing surface do not match the polarization direction, and at least part of the conversion layer is substantially parallel to the selection layer, and the phase plate has a monoaxial refractive index anisotropy.

As for claim 35, the prior art fails to teach or disclose a light guide with a polarization reflection and conversion layer, wherein the conversion layer is a phase

plate, and directions of a slow and fast axis of the phase plate in a plane parallel to the outgoing surface do not match the polarization direction, and at least part of the conversion layer is substantially parallel to the selection layer, and the phase plate has biaxial refractive index anisotropy.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EVAN DZIERZYNSKI whose telephone number is (571)272-2336. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:00 am -3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandy O'Shea can be reached on M-F (571)-272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2875

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/E. D./
Examiner, Art Unit 2875

/Ali Alavi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2875